

Date
11 JUNE 1986

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

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4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
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7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt		X		
13	D/OLL	X			
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
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SUSPENSE

Date

Remarks

Executive Secretary

9 June 1986

Date

3637 (10-81)

STAT

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Congress of the United States

Joint Committee on Printing

June 6, 1986

Executive Registry

86- 2554X

U.S. SENATE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
PHONE 224-5241

DDA/REG
LOGGED

TO: HEADS OF ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: FEDERAL ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TO DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES

The Federal depository library program was established by Congress to provide Federal government information to the public through libraries. Traditionally, this information has been distributed in paper and microform. However, as more and more Federal information is published through electronic means, it has become important that the depository libraries be able to provide public access to information in this medium as well.

In response to this need, the Joint Committee on Printing (JCP) established an Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Library Access to Federal Automated Data Bases to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of providing depository libraries with access to government information in electronic format. The Ad Hoc Committee submitted to the Joint Committee on Printing its report "Provision of Federal Government Publications in Electronic Format to Depository Libraries" in December 1984.

That report recommended that the Joint Committee on Printing and the Superintendent of Documents together initiate a pilot program through which depository libraries could access Federal information electronically and provide that information to the general public free of charge.

The Joint Committee on Printing held an open forum in June of 1985 to solicit comments on the Ad Hoc Committee report from agencies, the private sector and libraries. I have enclosed summaries of both the report and the proceedings of the Open Forum.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to identify possible pilot projects involving information generated by your agency. From projects recommended, we will select a group for implementation. When the implemented pilot program is finally evaluated, we expect that there will be sufficient evidence so that an informed decision can be made by the Congress about the practicability and cost effectiveness of providing information electronically to depository libraries.

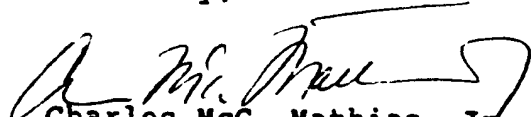
U.S. SENATE
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

In selecting and evaluating pilot projects, every effort will be made to establish a range of pilots that test various methods of electronic dissemination and serve different types of depository libraries (medical, legal, public, etc.). Due consideration will also be given to existing policy guidelines under which participating agencies are required to operate.

If you are interested in suggesting one or more pilot project(s) please respond to the JCP within 60 days by addressing the criteria in the attached document. Your response may be brief. If you have any questions, or need any additional information in order to respond call Bernadine Abbott Hoduski of my staff at (202) 224-5953.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.
Chairman

Advance Product Information
From the
Government Printing Office

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Government Publications Outlook



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For purchase: Order Desk (202) 783-3238

REPORT EXAMINES DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ACCESS TO FEDERAL AUTOMATED DATA

A publication of the 98th Congress evaluates the feasibility and desirability of providing access to Federal Government information in electronic formats to depository libraries. Published by the Congressional Joint Committee on Printing, Provisions of Federal Government Publications in Electronic Format to Depository Libraries is the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Library Access to Federal Automated Data Bases.

The report cites findings and recommendations based on the Committee's year-long investigation of Federal information programs, electronic distribution systems, automated data bases, and available technology. The recommendations include initiating a pilot program in which depository libraries will receive Federal information in electronic form and provide it to the general public free of charge, establishing criteria for selecting publications and libraries for pilot projects, monitoring the pilot program, and studying the impact on users.

The 136-page report, Provision of Federal Government Publications in Electronic Format to Depository Libraries, stock number 052-070-05970-2, is available for \$5.50. Send prepayment to Dept. 36-MV, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402; or to order with VISA or MasterCard, phone (202) 783-3238.

Advance Product Information
From the
Government Printing Office

86-MK-17

Government Publications Outlook



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information: Bernadine Hoduski (202) 224-3519
Joint Committee of Printing
To purchase: Order Desk (202) 783-3238

REPORT DISCUSSES DEPOSITORY LIBRARY ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

A publication of the 99th Congress presents proceedings of a recent forum focusing on the feasibility of providing access to Federal Government information in electronic format to depository libraries.

More than 150 agency representatives, congressional staffers, librarians and private sector representatives attended the forum to discuss a report previously issued by the Joint Committee on Printing's Ad Hoc Committee on Depository Access to Federal Automated Data. That report cited findings and recommendations based on the Ad Hoc Committee's investigation of Federal information programs, electronic distribution systems, automated data bases, and available technology. The recommendations included initiating a pilot program to test the concept of depository access to electronic Federal information.

This second report, An Open Forum on the Provision of Electronic Federal Information to Depository Libraries, contains comments solicited from forum participants concerning the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. It also includes letters and statements to the Joint Committee on the Printing from various members of the library community who are interested in participating in a pilot program.

An Open Forum on the Provision of Electronic Federal Information to Depository Libraries, stock number 052-070-06066-2, is available for \$3.75. Send prepayment to Dept. 36-RA, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402; or to order with VISA, MasterCard, or CHOICE phone (202) 783-3238.

**PROVISION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS IN ELECTRONIC
FORMAT TO DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES**

Information preliminary to the design of a possible pilot project

1. Describe the information proposed for inclusion in the pilot;

A. Subject matter (title)

B. Type of information;

1. numeric
2. textual
3. bibliographic
4. pictorial
5. geographic
6. other (please specify)

**C. Media in which the information is presently
available;**

1. paper
2. microform
3. electronic (please specify media or type of media)
4. audio/visual
5. other (please specify)

D. Period material will cover

1. current only
2. historical
3. historical and current

E. Frequency of update (is it time sensitive?)

2. Current dissemination;

**A. If currently disseminated, how is information being
disseminated?**

1. In what media?
2. Through what distribution mechanisms?
free
sale
FOIA
exchange
3. Requesting method;
subscription
on request

- B. Who is distributing the information? (please specify by name)
1. Publishing agency
 2. Agency contractor
 3. Government service agency (e.g. GPO, NTIS, ERIC, Clearinghouse)
 4. Private publisher (independent or under contract to government)
 5. Other
- C. To whom is the information distributed?
1. Internal
 2. Other agencies
 3. Other levels of government (state/local, international)
 4. Depository library program
 5. Academic institutions
 6. Professional organizations
 7. Press
 8. Private publishers
 9. Contractors
 10. FOIA requesters
 11. Other (please specify)
- D. What are the intended audiences for the information (e.g. agency personnel, student in military academy, members of the business community, teachers of handicapped, etc.)

3. Possible methodology and means of dissemination during pilot project;

- A. Media (electronic);
1. tape
 2. on-line
 3. disc (optical, video, CDrom) (please specify)
 4. other (please specify)
- B. Software needed (does the agency have software for retrieval or analysis that could be used by the depository libraries and is detailed documentation available with all such software?)
- C. Who will disseminate the information? (please specify by name)
1. Publishing agency

2. Agency contractor
 3. Government service agency (GPO, NTIS, ERIC, Clearinghouse etc.)
 4. Private publisher (independent or under contract to government)
 5. Other
- D. Hardware/software required for providing as well as accessing the information;
1. Is the hardware/software currently available?
 2. What additional hardware/software is needed?
 3. Who has/must acquire hardware/software?
 4. Approximate cost to acquire hardware/software?
- E. Proposed cycle of electronic updating of information (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually)
- F. Suggested communication services for dissemination or alternative means for delivering information, including all updates
- G. Funding and staff needed to develop complete specifications for projects undertaken as pilots (estimate if possible)
- H. Funding and staff needed to operate an approved pilot project (estimate if possible)
- I. Time needed to develop specifications
- J. Time needed for completion of an approved pilot project (starting date, length of project including time needed to evaluate effectiveness of project)
- K. Proposed partners (e.g. other agencies with similar products, the GPO, the private sector, etc.)
- 4. Participants in pilot project;**
- A. Suggested number (minimum and maximum) of depository libraries needed in order to adequately test proposal
- B. Special requirements that participating libraries must meet
1. Hardware
 2. Software
 3. Geographic location

4. Type of staff and training or experience level
5. Subject specialization of library
6. Hours of service to public
7. Availability of other parts of the depository library collections for use in conjunction with pilot project materials

5. Identify possible immediate and long range benefits to your agency--for example:

1. More timely dissemination of information to users (internal and external)
2. More flexibility in use of numeric data, ability of user to do analysis
3. Ability to do on-demand publishing
4. Ability to share information with other agencies in order to do cooperative publishing
5. Ability to meet Deficit Reduction Act targets
6. Ability to provide SDI (selective dissemination of information) services
7. Other (please specify)

6. How would the public good be served by offering a specific electronic file?

For example:

1. Promote public health and safety
2. Promote business expansion, product development, or international competitiveness in commerce
3. Facilitate research and development
4. Promote public awareness in a significant area
5. Benefit the education process
6. Promote more efficient and economic delivery system of useful information
7. Other (please specify)